



The Heart of Mission

July 20, 2021

A friend told me about the sunflowers northwest of town at Clearview Farm on North Mattis. This morning we went and looked. They all seemed to be bowing to the Sun. That led me to a worshipful moment later as I thought of these verses

“From the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 1:11) and

Psalm 90:14 says, “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”

As we move more in person, I am cutting back on the weekly sending of the Heart of Mission. There are still many mission announcements! Our agencies depend on us to ask them what they need. Small groups and mission committees will begin utilizing the mission kiosk and mission corner for announcements and reports as well as mission agencies continue to utilize their facebook pages and websites for more up to date information. I am pleased so many agencies

used this pandemic time to regroup and train as well as meet tremendous need in our community. If we haven't thanked God for them or shouted an Hallelujah, now is the time!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews, Mission Coordinator

Kemmerer Village Golf Classic and Back to School Drive: If you have wondered how you can enjoy your golf game and serve our children in need, mark your calendars! Let us know if you would like more information about sponsoring or participating in our tournament 217-226-2130 or amie.sparks@kv.christian.k12.il.us, **Friday Sept 10 Oak Terrace - Pana, IL**

They are also having a Back to School Drive for 200 children. They have collection boxes at Assumption & Shelbyville Dollar Generals as well as the Development Office at KV.

Here's a list of some of the needed items:

Bookbags / Back-packs
Note Books—wide rule
Loose leaf paper- wide rule
Composition journals
Texas Instrument calculators
Pencils
Pens
Glue Sticks
Liquid Glue
Pencil Pouches
Folders
Erasers
Crayons
Colored Pencils
Kleenex
Wet wipes
Markers—wide tip
Markers— fine point
Ear buds

Raindrop Offering - The offering which will support SAFE House this year will continue through July. Thank you so much to those who have already contributed.

Cuba Partner Network - We at First Presbyterian are in prayer with our sister church in Luyano, Havana. The First Presbyterian Church Cuba Steering Committee will meet July 28 at 9am to pray and discuss more how we can be in partnership with our sister congregation during this very difficult time. Hear this letter from the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba:

From the General Council of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba

The Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC), faithful to its vocation of service to our people and to its patriotic and independence roots, faithful to its call to always seek the Kingdom of God and His justice, we want to make a call:

- To our Cuban people to remain calm and avoid at all costs violent solutions to the situation of social instability and pandemic crisis we live in.
- To our State and Government to maintain the dignity to which we have always bet on as a nation, to maintain open channels of dialogue to deal with the critical situation in which we are living and to avoid, at all costs, violence, as the most genuine expression of the fact that we are one country.
- To our Presbyterian communities, to pray without rest for peace and discernment for our rulers, for the tranquility of our citizens and for the healing of our people. May our discourse of good will be the voice we raise at all times and may we be mediators in the search for peaceful solutions to the situation in which we live.

We affirm that the gospel we have been called to preach will always be good news for the world, justice and peace for "the least of these" and abundant life for all Creation. For this we will continue to work tirelessly.

To God be the glory!
IPRC General Council
July 13, 2021

ESL/CYF Immigrant Back to School Fair - July 31, 1-5pm, Volunteers still needed. Contact Jeanette Pyne to sign up.

Environmental Stewardship Committee - We are an environmental congregation. You can help with coffee cup cleaning on Sundays. ESC is asking small groups in the church to sign up for a month to clean cups on Sunday coffee hour. Several Faith in Place calendar items to note: July 29, 7 – 8pm/ Last in the series "Plastic Free July." Register online. And, September 12 – 14 , Healing Webinar at Faith in Place. Register online.

Frontera de Cristo - Our mission partners on the border in Douglas, AZ/Agua Prieta just recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of Cafe Justo. See a video of that historic event sent to us by our mission coworkers Mark Adams and Miriam Escobar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hejUUYAHKM8&t=2s>

We learn from each other. As we continue to work toward the day when our renovated kitchen is ready for mission here in Champaign, we can be informed and nourished by the mission of Cafe Justo.

CU at Home: We heard great news from Rob Dalhaus this week. They have hired staff to fill ALL gaps in daytime positions and are finalizing the overnight staffing. Therefore, they will be opening the Phoenix Daytime Drop-in Center the week of August 9th and will reopen both the men's and women's overnight shelters August 16th! They are thrilled to get back to full operations and see their friends again!

Rick Willams sent an update on the CU at Home 2021 Champaign County Fair sandwich stand open noon-10pm throughout the fair.. CU at Home will be selling pork chop sandwich meals for \$8. There is also a \$15,000 matching grant campaign running. Donations can be made in person at our pork chop stand, [online](#), or sent to P.O. Box 8816, Champaign, 61826.

We still could use a few more **volunteers** to work shifts at the fair (**noon-3; 3-6; 6-10 each day**). Contact **Doug Beckett** at dbeckett1970@gmail.com to get on the schedule. Be sure to check our [Facebook](#) for daily updates from the Fair. **We hope to C-U there!**

Lifeline Pilots is participating in a giving opportunity called A Community Thrives . Read more about it on their website...

LifeLine Pilots provides FREE air transportation to children and adults with medical and humanitarian needs. Thanks to our incredible volunteer pilots and donors like you, our flights are offered completely free for the passenger and their caregiver/companion.

We serve everyone, from babies to senior citizens. With more than 9,000 missions flown, LifeLine Pilots has made a lasting difference in the lives of thousand of individuals and families.

Established in 1981, LifeLine Pilots is celebrating 40 years of community giving. What better way to help us celebrate than making a [donation](#), putting us closer to even greater funding! YOU can make all the difference. Donations start at \$5. Please share this email with friends and family.

Friends of PEB sent out a lengthy prayer and praise email. Principal Rizwana Kashif of the Sangla Hill School, whose girls we support with scholarships has asked for prayers.

- Prayer request for the increase in enrollments.
 - Prayer request for the protection of staff, students and management of school from COVID-19 and hot weather.
 - For the spiritual growth of the students of the boarding house.
- Other prayer concerns (and there are many more not included here) are
- For litigation and legal matters of properties of PEB.

- For the return of three remaining schools from the Government.
- For the progress of PEB schools, boarding houses and projects.
- For all PEB students of 9th and 10th class who will appear in annual examination.

We want to keep our mission partners in our prayers, Listen for God's call to you in their ministry.

Our PC(USA) Mission CoWorkers:

Mark Adams and Miriam Maidonado Escobar (Mexico)
 Farsijanna Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)
 Jeff and Christi Boyd (Central Africa)
 Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

Our regional and global mission partners:

Kemmerer Village (and Camp Carew)
 Lifeline Pilots
 Marion Medical Mission
 Mission Aviation Fellowship
 Opportunity International
 Friends of Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan Presbyterian Cuba Partnership
 Special Offerings of the PC(USA)
 Theological Education Fund
 Young Adult Volunteers

Here in Champaign – Urbana:

CU at Home
 CANAAN S.A.F.E. HOUSE
 CANTEEN RUN
 COURAGE CONNECTION
 DREAAM
 eEMPTY TOMB, INC
 FAITH IN ACTION
 JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY
 THE REFUGEE CENTER
 RESTORATION URBAN MINISTRY
 SALT & LIGHT

Here at First Presbyterian Church

FPCC Amateur Preachers
 FPCC Environmental Committee working with Faith in Place
 FPCC Presbyterian Women
 FPCC ESL
 FPCC Children, Youth and Families
 FPCC Mission Possible/Go and Serve

FPCC Mission Team, World Mission and Community Mission Deacons



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